

## Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 07056 202136Z

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PM-03 INR-05 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PRS-01

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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

CINCUSNAVEUR

CONSIXTHFLT

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 7056

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, YO, TU, UK, IT, NATO

SUBJ: YUGOSLAV PROTEST OVER NAVOCFORMED EXERCISE IN ADRIATIC

REF: A. BELGRADE 5955 (NOTAL) B. BELGRADE 5895 (NOTAL)

C. USNATO 6487

1. ALTHOUGH DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY AND PUBLIC COMMENTARY ON THIS SUBJECT HAS, WE HOPE, GROUND TO A HALT, MISSION FURNISHES THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION FOR WHAT IT MAY BE WORTH IN COMPLETING THE RECORD.

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PAGE 02 NATO 07056 202136Z

2. ON DEC 2, THE ITALIAN POLITICAL COUNSELOR (FERRETTI)

ASKED TO MEET WITH HIS TURKISH, U.S. AND U.K. COLLEAGUES ON

THE SUBJECT OF THE YUGOSLAV PROTEST. ITALIAN REP REVIEWED

SERIES OF PRESS STATEMENTS IN YUGOSLAV, ROMANIAN AND ALBANIAN

MEDIA, AND SAID THAT IF ALLIES HAD NO OBJECTION ROME WISHED HIM TO MAKE A STATEMENT IN THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETING WHICH WAS SCHEDULED FOR THE FOLLOWING DAY (DEC 3) ABOUT CONTINUING COMMUNIST MEDIA REFERENCE TO THE PROTEST SO THAT ALLIES WOULD BE INFORMED ON LATEST DEVELOPMENTS. U.S. REP (LEDOGAR) DREW ON REFS A AND B, AND INDICATED THAT WHILE U.S. WOULD NOT OBJECT TO ITALIAN DEMARCHE IF ROME INSISTED, WE THOUGHT IT PREFERABLE TO LET THIS MATTER EXPIRE NATURALLY WITHOUT FURTHER COMMENT. U.K. AND TURKISH REPS SUPPORTED U.S. POINT OF VIEW. WHILE UNABLE HIMSELF TO EXPLAIN WHY ROME INSISTED ALLIES NEEDED FURTHER BRIEFING, ITALIAN REP INDICATED HE WOULD MAKE DEMARCHE FOLLOWING DAY IN LOW KEY MANNER.

3. BECAUSE OF PRESS OF BUSINESS IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO NATO DEC 9-13 MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, ESPECIALLY THE INTENSIVE ALLIED CONSULTATIONS ON THE EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL IN MBFR, THE DEC 3 POLADS MEETING WAS CANCELLED. POLADS DID NOT MEET AGAIN UNTIL DEC 17 BY WHICH TIME EVIDENTLY THE ITALIANS HAD DECIDED THERE WAS NO LONGER ANY PURPOSE IN RAISING THIS ISSUE.

4. IN COURSE OF THAT DEC 2 CONSULTATION, ITALIAN REP STATED THAT TIMING AND VEHEMENCE OF YUGOSLAV PROTEST HAD BEEN DIFFICULT FOR ITALY TO COMPREHEND FOR THREE REASONS: A. ITALY HAD GIVEN TO YUGOSLAVIA "ON BOTH THE POLITICAL AND TECHNICAL LEVELS" THREE WEEKS ADVANCE NOTICE OF THE MANEUVERS; B. AT ITALY'S REQUEST NO FIRING EXERCISES WERE UNDERTAKEN DURING THE PERIOD NAVOCFORMED WAS IN THE ADRIATIC; C. WHILE IN THE ADRIATIC, NAVOCFORMED SCRUPULOUSLY REMAINED TO THE WEST OF THE LINE WHICH DEMARKS THE CONTINENTAL SHELF BETWEEN ITALY AND YUGOSLAVIA (A PRACTICE WHICH THE ITALIAN REP SAID THE ITALIAN NAVY GENERALLY OBSERVES).

5. AT THIS SAME MEETING ALLIES ASKED UK REP WHETHER SUBJECT OF NAVOCFORMED MANEUVERS IN ADRIATIC HAD BEEN DISCUSSED DURING THE VISIT TO LONDON OF YUGOSLAV FONMIN MINIC. UK REP WAS UNINFORMED BUT UNDERTOOK TO SEEK RESPONSE. ON DEC 10 HE SENT CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NATO 07056 202136Z

A NOTE TO HIS ITALIAN, TURKISH AND U.S. COLLEAGUES WHICH QUOTED FROM A LONDON REPORT ON THE EXCHANGE BETWEEN MINIC AND FONSEC CALLAGHAN (SEE BELOW). IN COMMENTING ON THIS REPORT UK REP SAID THAT THE TONE AND CONTENT OF MR. MINIC'S REMARKS APPEARED TO CONFIRM THE CONCLUSION THAT YUGOSLAV PROTEST WAS AS MUCH FOR SOVIET AND EASTERN EUROPEAN CONSUMPTION AS FOR THE ALLIES:

6. BEGIN TEXT:

MR MINIC SAID THAT YUGOSLAVIA HAD SUPPORTED WESTERN PROPOSALS AT THE CSCE FOR THE NOTIFICATION OF MANOEUVRES. THEY HOPED THAT THE WEST ALSO WOULD REFRAIN FROM MANOEUVRES IN CERTAIN AREAS SUCH AS THE ADRIATIC. THEY REALISED THAT

THERE WERE OPERATIONAL REASONS FOR SUCH NATO MANOEUVRES BUT THEY FEARED THAT OTHERS MIGHT FOLLOW SUIT. THERE HAD BEEN NO SUCH MANOEUVRES IN THE ADRIATIC FOR 20 YEARS AND THEIR COMMENCEMENT NOW GAVE THE YUGOSLAVS A FEELING OF INSECURITY. LAST YEAR, FOR EXAMPLE, THERE HAD BEEN JOINT US/ITALIAN EXERCISES WHICH, DESPITE OFFICIAL DENIALS, WERE REGARDED BY THE YUGOSLAV POPULATION AS A FORM OF PRESSURE. HE ASKED THAT THE BRITISH GOVT SHOULD SHOW UNDERSTANDING OF THE YUGOSLAV POSITION.

MR CALLAGHAN SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN INFORMED OF THESE MANOEUVRES AND OF THE YUGOSLAV PROTEST BUT HAD NOT HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY THE QUESTION. HE APPRECIATED THAT, AFTER AN INTERVAL OF 20 YEARS, THE YUGOSLAVS DID NOT WANT NAVAL MANOEUVRES TO START AGAIN NOW. EQUALLY, HE WAS SURE THAT THE YUGOSLAVS WOULD UNDERSTAND THAT OTHER NATIONS HAD A RIGHT TO CONDUCT EXERCISES IN INT'L WATERS. SUCH EXERCISES WERE DESIGNED TO STABILISE RATHER THAN DESTABLISE THE AREA CONCERNED.

END TEXT.

7. IN CORRIDOR AFTER LEAVING ITALIAN REP, U.K. AND TURKISH REPS VENTURED OPINION THAT THERE MUST BE SOME OBSCURE ITALIAN DOMESTIC POLITICAL REASON OR PERHAPS AN ITALIAN-YUGOSLAV ANGLE WHICH CAUSED ROME TO BE INTERESTED IN KEEPING THE MATTER OF THE PROTEST ALIVE, BECAUSE SUCH ACTION MADE LITTLE SENSE FROM ALLIANCE POINT OF VIEW.

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PAGE 04 NATO 07056 202136Z

8. MISSION HAS HEARD NOTHING FURTHER ON THIS MATTER SINCE DEC 10. BRUCE

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SECDEF INFO ANKARA  
ATHENS  
BELGRADE  
BRUSSELS  
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MADRID

PARIS  
ROME  
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